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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY: Bulgaria/Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 22 SEP 50

SUBJECT: Cominform and Titoist activity in Pirin Macedonia

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1. Bulgarian authorities in Pirin Macedonia recently learned that a number of leaflets were distributed among the population in that region.
2. The leaflets urged the people of Bulgarian Macedonia to revolt against the Chervenkov regime, declaring that the Government is supported by the Soviet Union which wishes to make Bulgaria a Soviet province. On the other hand, the leaflets pointed out, Bulgarians who live in the Macedonian Republic of Yugoslavia have full liberty and independence, their own schools, free use of their own language, et cetera.
3. In reprisal, Bulgarian authorities ordered the deportation of all persons of Pirin Macedonian origin into the interior of Bulgaria. The underlying reason for the expulsions is believed to be due to the deep-seated opposition of Pirin Macedonians to the Chervenkov regime.
4. In the first ten days of August, approximately 250 families, including children, were taken from the town of Belogradchik and interned. On 11 August, similar action was taken in the town of Vidin.
5. Members of the Bulgarian Communist Party, working from a list drawn up by special Cominformist agents, surround the houses of the people, order all members of the family outside, place them in trucks and deport them to some unknown destination. Special groups of Communists from the interior of Bulgaria are used for these raids, and the men act without pity toward the Macedonians.
6. Once the raids are completed, meetings are held at which Communists explain the reasons for the internment of the Macedonians to the other inhabitants of the community. They claim that all the people expelled or interned were Fascists who refused to acknowledge and conform to Communist law, or that they were adherents of Tito's regime.

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